

# The Romulus News

OCTOBER 20, 2000 – NOVEMBER 2, 2000

"the little paper"

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 7

## Timely Tidbits ...

### Donations Sought for Citywide Baby Shower

On Saturday, October 28 – in recognition of National Make A Difference Day – Romulus Community Schools students will host a citywide baby shower to benefit area agencies that provide for needy newborns. Community residents are being asked to bring one new, unwrapped baby item to the cafeteria at Romulus High School (located at 9650 South Wayne Road) between the hours of noon and 2 p.m.

Other highlights of the afternoon will include a luncheon, games, and door prizes.

To make your reservation, contact Kathy Hurst, the district's Service-learning Coordinator, at the High School (734-941-2170, ext. 809).

### Federal Disaster Aid Ordered for Michigan

As part of a Major Disaster Declaration issued on October 17, President Bill Clinton has authorized Federal Disaster Aid for the State of Michigan because of damage to private property that occurred during the storms and flooding of September 10–11.

The assistance – to be coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under Director James Lee Witt – can include grants to help pay for minor home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Affected Wayne County residents and business owners can begin their disaster application process by calling 1-800-462-9029 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Applicants should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), their insurance coverage, and any other information about their loss. □

## Unanimous Board Vote Opposes Vouchers

At its regular meeting held Monday, September 25, the Romulus Board of Education adopted a resolution to oppose Proposal 1, which would amend the Michigan Constitution to require that vouchers be issued for payment of nonpublic school tuition to parents of parochial- and private-school students who reside in certain "qualified" school districts.

"I think we all feel that vouchers would not be administered fairly," said Debbie Dick, a Board Trustee. "The law does not require private and parochial schools to adhere to the same rules that public schools must abide by. For instance, where public schools are required to do everything possible to provide an education for all children – even the so-called 'problem kids' – private and parochial schools are free to adopt exclusionary admission policies."

Eva Webb, the Board's Secretary, is especially concerned about the possibility of discrimination.

"Making sure that all children are treated fairly is an issue that's always near and dear to my heart," she stated. "Because private and parochial schools

can use more selective admissions procedures, the possibility for discrimination based on factors such as race or religion is too likely to be ignored."

Superintendent Joel Carr believes that the approval of Proposal 1 would have devastating financial consequences – not just for Romulus, but for all of Michigan.

"The voucher system would take an enormous bite from the State Aid Fund, severely depleting available financial resources," he explained. "Although the State could end up paying about \$700 million to these schools each year, no accountability would be required of them."

"Frankly, that's an unacceptable use of taxpayer dollars."

The concerns expressed by Carr, Dick, and Webb are among several addressed in the Board's resolution. In full, it reads:

"WHEREAS, a proposed school voucher ballot initiative would amend the Michigan Constitution to eliminate the ban against providing state funds to support the attendance of any student at private or parochial schools and re-



Joel Carr, Superintendent

quire a voucher for nonpublic school tuition for parents for a "qualified" school district; and

"WHEREAS, it is clear that this pro-

*continued on page 11*

## Homecoming Fostered School, City Spirit



Queen Jessica Jackson and King Bernard Randall.

More than 2000 enthusiastic fans were on hand at the school district's impressive new athletic facilities on Friday, October 6, to cheer the undefeated Romulus High School varsity Eagles to a 40–6 Homecoming victory over the Trenton Trojans.

A rousing schedule of Spirit Week activities ensured that students were in a competitive state of mind. In their quest to win the coveted Spirit Jug, all four classes participated in dress-up days, a pep rally, and other programs to earn spirit points.

Excitement began to mount a few hours before the game, when students were joined by school staffers, family, friends, and other members of the community to watch the annual Homecoming Parade, which departed from City Hall and wound through downtown Romulus before ending at the Middle School football field. Among the most colorful of the parade's entries were the class floats, each of which reflected this year's Homecoming theme: "international festivals."

The winner of the float competition was the sophomore class, which chose to represent "Mardi Gras" with its entry. Others were based on "Cinco de Mayo" (freshmen), "Chinese New Year" (juniors), and "The Running of the Bulls" (seniors).

It was a few hours later, during the

game's halftime ceremonies, that the winner of the Spirit Jug was announced. (Perhaps appropriately, it was the senior class.) But the culminating event of all the festivities was the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen: Bernard Randall and Jessica Jackson. For the first time ever, students used electronic voting to choose the school's "royal couple." Homecoming Court members included Ryan Block, Alan Brohl, Billy Gibson, Myron Mosby, Tracy Coak, D'aun Dawson, Nicole Johnson, and Christie St. John.

Jerome Gray and Jessica May, Kenny Belcher and Fallon Sanders, and James Davis and La'Joya Orr were the junior, sophomore, and freshmen Prince and Princess, respectively.

(Note: With their 35–0 defeat of Thurston on October 13, the Eagles raised their season record to 8–0; they look forward to wrapping up their season with an undefeated record by besting Belleville on Friday, October 20. To date, the team has out-scored opponents by a margin of 324–19.)

*More photos on pages 8 and 9.* □



## Guest Commentary

### "Partial-birth Abortions": Maintaining the Wall Between Church and State

By Kimberly Blaker

Recently, the Supreme Court struck down a state law banning the so-called "partial-birth abortion." However, Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush has promised Americans that if he is elected and handed a bill banning "partial-birth abortions," he will sign it into law. So women in their childbearing years need to be aware of who they are voting for during this election and how such issues could have a devastating impact on their lives.

"Partial-birth abortion" is a term made up by anti-abortionists (aka: the religious right), not the medical profession. The term is used to misrepresent the facts pertaining to late-term abortion and to create public fear and outrage in an effort to enforce their religious views on others.

The anti-abortionists place the life of the unborn, non-breathing fetus ahead of the life of the living, breathing mother. Available data show that only 320 to 600 abortions of this type are performed each year. Considering the number of complicated pregnancies and the number of babies born with severe birth defects, this number is exceptionally low.

The so-called "partial-birth abortion" takes place when the woman's life or health is seriously at risk. Other late-term abortions take place when the fetus has fluid in the brain, no brain at all, or other serious diseases or deformities, and the fetus would be unable to sustain life outside the womb. Because these types of medical problems often place the mother at risk, doctors, with their patient's consent, choose to abort the fetus to protect the mother's health and reproductive capabilities, knowing that the baby will not survive anyway.

What is quite interesting is how these anti-abortionists frequently argue that medical ethicists are opposed to these lifesaving techniques, yet we never hear this from the ethicists themselves, with the exception of a handful of far-right extremists.

In regards to the late-term abortion, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said, "The physician, in consultation with the patient, must choose the most appropriate method based upon the patient's individual circumstances."

In addition, the American Nurses Association said, "It is inappropriate for the law to mandate a clinical course of action for a woman who is already faced with an intensely personal and difficult decision."

So I am curious as to which medical profession, according to some extremists, says that late-term abortion is never justified.

Whatever side of the abortion issue we are on, these late-term abortions are not being performed on women who suddenly decide that they don't want to have a baby. Most women who have been faced with this decision desperately wanted to have the baby and have had to make a painstaking decision. By creating a law that doesn't allow for late-term abortions when medically necessary, we would be taking the health and life of these mothers. Is this not murder in the eyes of the "pro-lifers"?

Some anti-abortionists have even argued, "The byword of the medical profession used to be, 'Above all, do no harm.'" However, don't they think that not giving appropriate medical treatment to a woman whose health and life are in danger falls under this same oath?

The hypocrisy of the religious right will never cease. Whatever their religious beliefs are, they have the right to practice them amongst themselves. However, it is not their right to enforce their dogma on the people of the United States. That is where liberty stops – when it crosses over and interferes with the rights of others or places others in danger.

*Kimberly Blaker is a free-lance reporter for The Huron River Weekly. She actively works to promote and protect the principle of separation of church and state.*

\* \* \*

*Editor's note: The purpose of the "Guest Commentary" column is to provide members of the Romulus community and other interested parties with an opportunity to express their viewpoint on issues of interest to the people who live and do business here. Responsible individuals and spokespersons are invited to make use of this column, free of charge, anytime.*

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Santo's students have also joined Romulus senior citizens to create an "intergenerational" cookbook, available for \$5 each.

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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

*The Romulus News* (also known as "the little paper") is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and *The Romulus News* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

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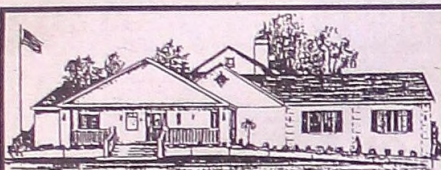
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## RHS Class of '50 Hosts 50-year Reunion



A dozen or so members of the Class of 1950 got their reunion weekend off to a start with dinner at the Romulus House Restaurant.

Members of Romulus High School's Class of 1950 came from 11 states to attend a 50-year reunion the weekend of September 15-17, 2000.

Several members of the class started the weekend with dinner at the Romulus House Restaurant on Wayne Road, then joined more classmates on the streets of downtown Romulus to watch the annual "Parade of Lights" kickoff to the Romulus Pumpkin Fest.

On Saturday, 31 former classmates and guests attended a buffet dinner at

the Wayne County Fair Grounds.

"It was wonderful," said Donna Genovese, who still resides in Romulus. "We spent a sentimental evening remembering the things we enjoyed during our school days, as well as catching up on what each of us had done during the last 50 years."

Winding up the weekend was a picnic held at Mary Ann Banks Park, named for the late Romulus City Councilwoman who was a member of their graduating class. □

## Local Woman Attends WMA Convention

Romulus resident Donna Genovese was one of more than 500 women who attended a recent convention of the Women Marines Association (WMA) held in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the group's fortieth anniversary. Ranging in age from 18 to 90, these women - both former and active Marines - came from all over the United States.

"There were many get-togethers, both for business and for fun," said Genovese. "Highlights of the various events included a dedication of the statue of 'Molly Marine' at the Quantico Marine base in Virginia, as well as a visit to the Women Veterans' Memorial at

Arlington Cemetery.

"General James Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, was the guest speaker at the banquet concluding the convention. Music was provided by the President's Own, the Marine Corps Band," she added.

According to Genovese, the WMA is looking for former Women Marines to join a local chapter of the organization.

"It doesn't matter how long you were in the Corps," she said. "If you were a Marine, we would love to have you join us."

For information about the WMA, call Genovese at 734-941-0293. □



Donna Genovese (right) enjoyed getting together with fellow WMA members at the organization's fortieth-anniversary convention.



## "Health Mobile" Visits Romulus

Romulus-area residents recently had an opportunity to receive a free basic health screening thanks to Central Distributors of Beer, Inc., of Romulus and Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. On Thursday, October 5, the two companies joined forces to bring the Anheuser-Busch Community Health Mobile to the Romulus City Hall parking lot to conduct free blood-pressure, cholesterol, and other health-related screenings.

According to Bill Ventola, Special Programs Coordinator for Central Distributors, the Community Health Mobile was introduced in 1983 as a public service. The unit travels across the country, visiting an average of 50 cities each

year and providing free screenings to more than 7,500 people annually.

Based on the screenings, approximately 5,000 people have been referred to doctors for medical attention.

"Adequate health care continues to be one of the most important issues facing members of our communities," said Ron Wilkinson, Project Coordinator for Anheuser-Busch. "The Health Mobile performs a valuable service by raising health awareness and providing services that might not otherwise be available to many families."

Central Distributors of Beer, the local Anheuser-Busch wholesaler, sponsored the Community Health Mobile's visit. □



RNs Pat Neeley and Eleanor Kilis check the blood pressure of Bill Ventola, Special Programs Coordinator at Central Distributors of Beer, Inc., while Ron Wilkinson, Project Coordinator for Anheuser-Busch Companies, looks on.



The Community Health Mobile's free services were available in the City Hall parking lot from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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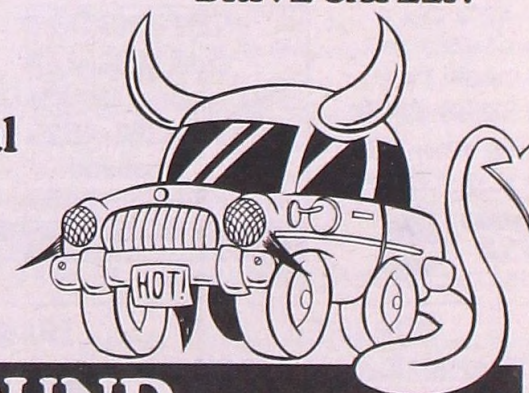
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# Another *FISH!* Story



"Fish!" presenters (from left): Connie Knight, Robin Omev, Carole Bales (Executive Secretary to the Superintendent and "Fish!" administrator), Superintendent Joel Carr, Louise Briody, and Ellen Bragg.

If you're looking for *Fish!* stories, the Romulus Community Schools' Transportation Department employees can tell you some whoppers.

On Thursday, October 5, approximately 50 to 60 of the district's bus drivers and mechanics took part in a motivational program that originated at the Pike Place Fish market in Seattle, Washington – a once ordinary market that was transformed into a truly extraordinary environment for both workers and customers through the use of the "Famous Fish Philosophy." It's four deceptively simple principles are:

- Choose your attitude. (Accept full responsibility for all of your choices, even your attitude at work. There is always a choice about the way you do your work, even if there is not a choice about the work itself.)
- Play. (Fun is energizing and leads to creativity. Happy people treat others well, and time passes quickly in a cheerful atmosphere. Work becomes a reward in itself, and not just a way to gain other rewards.)
- Make Someone's Day. (Treating customers and coworkers well will give you the satisfaction that comes to those who serve others. Focusing your attention on ways to make another person's day, instead of dwelling on your own problems, provides a constant flow of positive feedback.)
- Be Present. (Give your work, your customers, and your coworkers your full attention. When you are truly "present," you show consideration for the other person.)

The bus drivers' program was the second organized by Carole Bales, Executive Secretary to Superintendent Joel Carr and newly proclaimed "Chief *Fish!* Administrator." The first one – an in-service for the district's secretaries – was so successful that Bales plans to continue the programs for various employee groups throughout the remainder of the school year.



(From left): front row – Kim Hoeing, Lisa Atchley, Sharon Howie, Dorothy McKinnie, and Teri Crowell; back row – Nancy Daniels, Edie Schneider, Pat Malloy, Kathy McKiney, Linda Gilliland, Carol Casmer, and Bonnie Williams.



(From left): front row – Nancy Mahalak; second row – Alvoid Blackman and Debbie Fabrizio; third row – Rhonda Skinner, Dianne Chapman, and Becky Hojnowski; back row – Karen Kusibab and John Hadyniak.



(From left): front row – Kerry Vaughn, Sandy Tenney, Jo Prater, and Pat Locklear; back row – Ruth Hopson, Debbie Turner, Kay Camilleri, Cindy Coak, and Sandy Czajkowski.



(From left): front row – Meredith Hughey, Diane Austin, and Valerie Cofield; back row – Stephanie Mitchell, Linda Madej, Kathy Shipp, and Carol Weidemann.



## Post Donates \$75,000 To Open New Boys & Girls Club Site



At the new site's opening ceremony, Wick fifth-grader Nicole Love did a TV interview on the importance of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

As part of its new "Foundations of the Future" program, which funds the opening of new Boys & Girls Clubs of America sites, Post Cereals has donated \$75,000 for the Romulus Club's second site, located at Wick Elementary School. Altogether, Post will donate \$3 million to "Inspire the Desire" and open 30 new clubs throughout the country over the next three years.

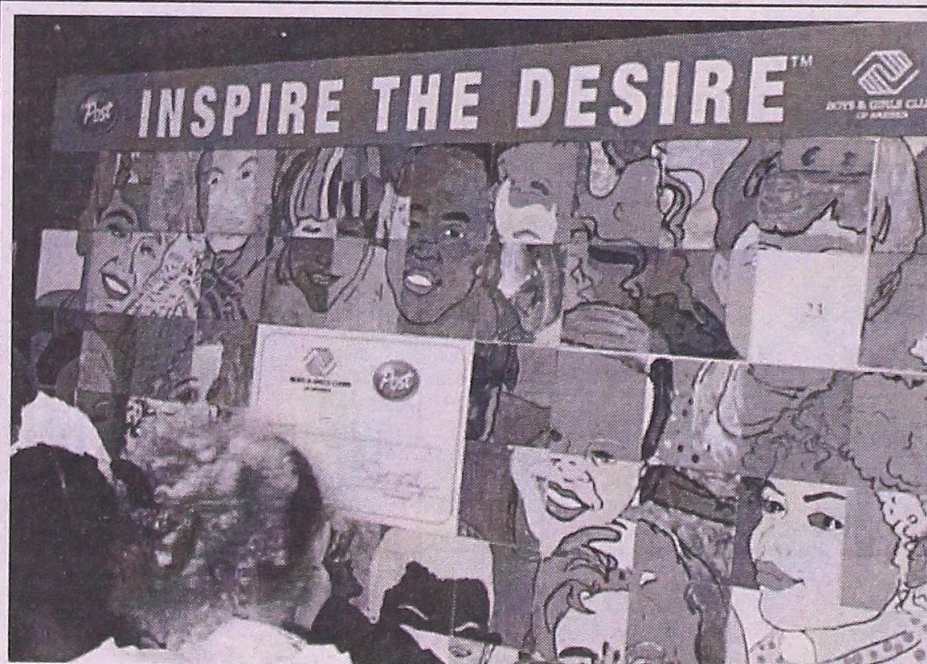
Sunita Adams, Post spokesperson, noted that her company began its affiliation with the Boys & Girls Clubs last year, donating membership fees for 15,000 students nationwide. She was impressed by the favorable comments made by the Boys & Girls Clubs 1999 Youth of the Year, Eric Morgan, and by local essay winner Patricia Morgan.

"We at Post Cereals feel that our support of the Boys & Girls Clubs will

have a positive influence on thousands of American youngsters, and we are proud to be a part of this effort," she stated.

A recent program celebrating the Wick site's opening included celebratory remarks from Frank Rigger, President of the Romulus Club; Len Krichko, President of the Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Michigan; Richard Marsh, Community Development Director for the City of Romulus; Joel Carr, Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools; Ray Basham, State Representative; Debbie Juriga, Principal of Wick School; and the Romulus Club's 1999 "Volunteer of the Year," Romulus Police Officer Carolyn Huggins.

The Reverend Arthur Willis of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church gave the Invocation.



Students worked hard to paint the individual tiles necessary to form the "Inspire the Desire" mosaic.



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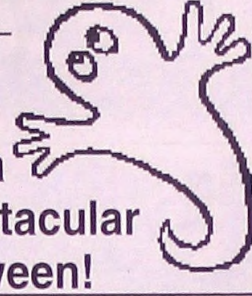


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# Homecoming 2000



Grand Marshal Joel Carr, Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, waved to well-wishers along the parade route.



The district's elementary students – including those from Halecreek School – were well represented in the parade.



Tuba players Steven McCraight and Shawnita Williams were among the many Romulus Middle School Marching Band members who were lined up in the City Hall parking lot, preparing for their parade performance.



Other RMS Marching Band members preparing to perform included (from left) Tiara Anderson (sax) and percussionists David Coyne, Carol Deaton, and Mario Clark.



Cheerleader Della Hamby and Romulus High School's own Dana Noble, winner of the Miss Teen Michigan pageant, also took part in the parade.



(From left) Queen Jessica Jackson and Court members Nicole Johnson, Christie St. John, D'aun Dawson, and Tracy Coak were all smiles.



# Homecoming 2000



Sophomores displaying true maroon-and-white spirit included (from left): front row – Chris Anderson, Beth Hotchkiss, and Kenny Belcher; back row – Patrick Webb and Dominic Pioli.



Nobody was more spirited than the High School cheerleaders, including (from left): front row – Tequita Tucker, Aricka Foreman, and Sara Turner; back row – Amaris Smith, Kim Mingo, and Ashley Slone.



The freshmen float: "Cinco de Mayo."



The (winning) sophomore float: "Mardi Gras."



The junior float: "Chinese New Year."



The senior float: "The Running of the Bulls."





# HALLOWEEN

## Safety Tips



### FOR KIDS

- Trick-or-Treat before dark.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Carry a flashlight so you can see and be seen easily.
- Visit homes that you know and that have the porch light on.
- A face mask may obstruct your vision; use makeup instead.
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see, and be seen.
- Plan your Trick-or-Treat route ahead of time. Pick streets that are well lit.
- Trick-or-Treat with a parent, older brother, sister, or friends. Never travel alone.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Keep away from open fires and candles. (Keep in mind that costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already open.
- Look LEFT, RIGHT, then LEFT AGAIN before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms. Cross *only* at corners.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)



### FOR PARENTS

- Your child should know his/her phone number and address.
- Dress children in shoes that fit. Large-size shoes make it easier to trip and fall.
- Limit the use of "weapons" as part of the costume. If you allow a weapon, be sure it is soft and flexible.
- When you inspect the treats, be sure they have not been tampered with and are safely sealed. Be careful with fruit, as punctures or holes are easily missed.

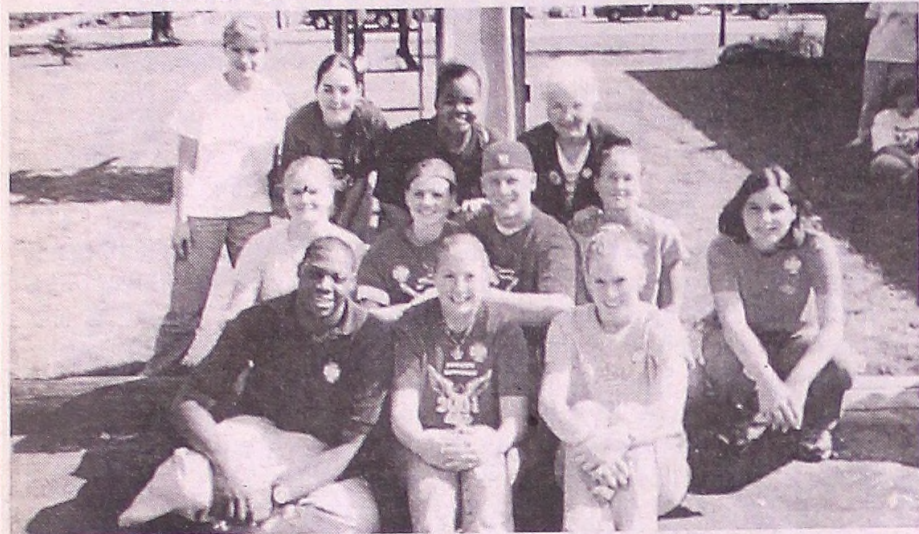


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Information provided by AAA Michigan, American Red Cross, and the Oakwood Healthcare System



## RHS Students Raise \$2,000+



The Helping Hand's Florence Klein (back, right) poses with a few of the 104 Romulus Community Schools students who raised \$2,000+ through their participation in the annual Crop Walk program, held October 1.

## Student Program Promotes Core Democratic Values

On Thursday, October 12, State Representative Ray Basham (D-Taylor) took part in a special assembly planned and implemented by students in Romulus High School teacher Kellie Knight's freshmen social-studies classes. He discussed citizen participation in our nation's elective process, gave students a brief overview of the Democratic Party platform, and answered questions.

"I really enjoyed interacting with the students during the Q&A portion of the assembly," said Basham. "I was truly impressed by their knowledge of today's issues."

"The assembly was one piece of a department-wide service-learning project to promote student and community awareness about the importance of voting and taking part in the democratic process," said Knight. "Arrangements for the assembly itself—including reservation of the auditorium, refreshments, and the distribution of literature related to the event—were made by freshman student Dan Wiecki; freshman Jason Gibes planned the agenda for Representative Basham, including his pre-assembly meeting with the building's administrators and a tour of the school."

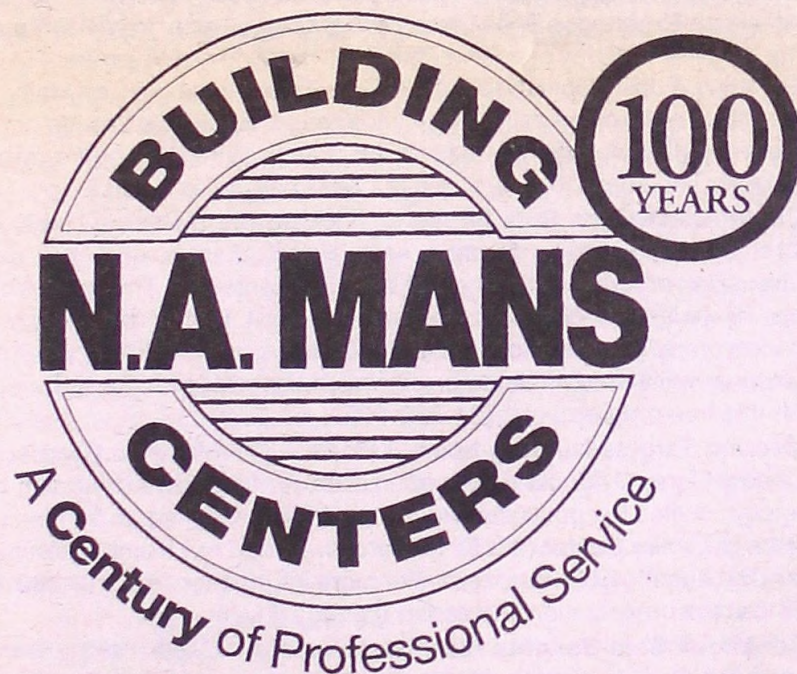
Knight said her classes have already begun work on their next piece of the project—a mock student voter registration for a mock presidential election.



Representative Ray Basham

"The students will cast their votes on-line," she explained, "and then the tabulated results will be forwarded over the internet to become part of a state-wide mock election. Freshman Jeff Hoffman has already registered our school with the organization conducting the election." □

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## Unanimous Vote Opposes Vouchers

*continued from page 1*

positional will divert scarce resources from public schools while it subsidizes private and religious schools which are not subject to any oversight from any elected officials and are allowed to set their own tuition rates and have exclusive admission policies; and

"WHEREAS, a voucher program would likely increase discrimination and segregation by fragmenting Michigan's children along lines of religion, race, ethnicity, disability, and social class; and

"WHEREAS, a voucher program as proposed would narrowly assist wealthy families by using tax dollars to subsidize students from affluent homes who are already enrolled in private and religious schools while excluding low income students who cannot afford to pay the remaining cost of private school tuition; and

"WHEREAS, passage of this measure may spur a legal challenge based on constitutional grounds as evidenced by courts in Ohio, Maine, and Pennsylvania which have ruled voucher programs in those states to be unconstitutional; and

"WHEREAS, there is no evidence that students from similar backgrounds

perform better in private schools than public schools; and

"WHEREAS, the Romulus Board of Education supports proven solutions such as lower class size, training for teachers and increased parental involvement for improving the quality of public education;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Romulus Board of Education officially declares its opposition to the proposed initiative on school vouchers that will remove the constitutional ban against providing state funds to support the attendance of any student at private or parochial schools and constitutionally require a voucher for nonpublic school tuition for parents from a "qualified" school district."

With the passage of its resolution, the Board of Education joins a number of other individuals and groups that oppose Proposal 1, including the Michigan Association of School Boards, the Michigan Education Association, the Michigan Association of School Administrators, the Michigan Parent Teacher Association, Governor John Engler (Republican), former Governor James Blanchard (Democrat), various local chambers of commerce, and the American Association of University Women. □



## Safeties at Halecreek School Talk To Kindergarten Students



Sixth-grade Safety Jessica Mills talked to Destiny Terry as well as other kindergarten students.

As part of a service-learning activity at Halecreek Elementary School, sixth-grade Safeties Alyse Hopkins and Jessica Mills talked with kindergartners about the responsibilities of being a Safety.

Besides explaining the duties of their post and the many ways that they help the children at their school, the two also gave the kids a few tips on how to remain safe while going to and from school, such as the importance of sitting remaining seated on the bus and of staying on the sidewalk while walking.

Mills told the children that if they were having a problem going to or from school, they should tell a Safety or a teacher. She also reminded them that Safeties can be recognized by their

orange belt. Hopkins discussed what happens to children who don't follow safety rules, and also answered questions about how she became a Safety.

### MULTIPLE-FAMILY BASEMENT SALE

Oct. 26-27, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Kindergartners Autumn Stanowski and Antonio Hollis listen carefully to sixth-grade Safeties Jessica Mills (left) and Alyse Hopkins.

## Community Calendar

- **Belleville Farmer's Market** – Open at 8 a.m. each Saturday through October 28, the City of Belleville's weekly Farmer's Market is located in the Fourth Street parking lot behind the Museum at 405 Main Street. Vendors are invited to bring their fresh produce and food items, as well as home-made baked goods and other homemade food products to sell. For more information, call 734-697-9323.
- **New Church Sponsors Community Outreach** – Strait Gate International Church, which currently meets at the Romulus Civic Center on Wahrman Road each Sunday, is inviting community members to attend its first Saturday Outreach program, to be held in the Oakwood Townhouses neighborhood on Saturday, October 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event will feature puppet shows, face-painting, singing, and free refreshments.
- **Halloween Craft Classes at the Recreation Center** – The Romulus Recreation Department invites children ages eight and over (those under 11 must be accompanied by an adult) to take part in a Halloween craft class on Saturday, October 21, to make a pumpkin (1 p.m.) or a hat (1:30 p.m.). Cost is \$5 per item. Preregistration required. Call 734-942-6852.
- **"Seasonal Craft Saturdays" at the Library** – The Romulus Public Library invites children in grades one through five to take part in one-day, seasonal craft classes to be held on the following Saturdays beginning at 10:30 a.m.: October 21, November 18, and December 2. Although the classes are free, preregistration is required, since space is limited and materials must be planned for. For more information, contact the Library at 734-942-7589.
- **The Mayor's Chair** – The next edition of the monthly *Mayor's Chair* program will air on cable channel 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 9. Anyone who would like to be present when the program is taped must be seated in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road, at Goddard) by 6:15 p.m. Beginning at 6 p.m., home viewers can ask questions of the Mayor and his guests by calling 734-942-7571.
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The African American Experience Book Discussion Group will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting on November 15) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall). New members are welcome. For more information, call Alfaye Woods or Diane Hazen at the Library (734-942-7589) during its regular hours (Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.).
- **Dinner/Discussion Puts Focus on Kicking the Smoking Habit** – The 21st Century Learning Center's next "Health, Family, and You" dinner/discussion program – to be held at Wick Elementary on Thursday, November 16 – will focus on kicking the smoking habit. Dinner (6-6:20 p.m.) will be followed by a guest speaker (6:20-6:50 p.m.) and Q & A (6:50-7 p.m.). Children will attend a related presentation especially for them. To register for this free program, call 734-722-1050, ext. 273.
- **Meeting Targets Nursing-home Reform** – The Michigan Campaign for Quality Care, a nonpartisan organization working toward nursing-home reform, invites the public to take part in its next meeting, to be held at the Berwyn Senior Center (26155 Richardson, Dearborn Heights) from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21. For more information, call 313-386-7784, or visit the organization's Website: [pamoga@webtv.net](mailto:pamoga@webtv.net).
- **Cookbook Sale Benefits Historical Society** – Copies of the Romulus Historical Society's new cookbook, packed with favorite classic recipes, are still available for only \$5 each. Sales of the cookbook will help support the Society's goal of restoring and preserving Romulus history. To purchase your copy, stop in at the Historical Museum (near the Post Office on Hunt Street) any Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m., or call 734-697-9628.
- **Big, Beautiful People Welcome!** – The "More to Love" Social Club for Big, Beautiful People and their admirers welcomes you. Call 313-438-2720.
- **TOPS Meetings** – TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter #M1690, Taylor – a nonprofit weight-loss support group – invites you to attend its weekly meetings, which are held at 7:05 p.m. each Thursday at Taylor Church of Nazarene, Eureka Road just west of Telegraph. Dues are \$20/year + \$1/week (first visit free).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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## Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

### Holiday Craft Class

The Center invites seniors to sign up for its one-day "holiday pie" craft class, set for 1 p.m. Saturday, November 4. Cost is \$6.

### Luncheon Has Halloween Theme

The Senior Center's next monthly luncheon—set for Friday, October 27, at 1 p.m.—will feature a costume contest for those who would like to participate. (Costumes are optional, but frightfully fun!) Prizes will be awarded for:

- the funniest costume,
- the most colorful costume, and
- the costume that took the most time and thought to put together.

The menu will feature stuffed cabbage, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, and dessert.

Tickets (\$5.50 per person) must be purchased by October 23.

### Caribbean Cruise Travel Show

The Center will host a "Caribbean Cruise" travel show at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, to help interested seniors plan for a seven-day trip that's now in the planning stage. Sign up at the Center.

### Focus: HOPE

The Romulus Senior Center is now a distribution center for Focus: HOPE, a program which provides free food on a monthly basis to qualifying seniors. The program operates in addition to the "Meals on Wheels" and "Liquid Nutrition" programs.

To qualify for Focus: HOPE, you must:

- be a resident of the Tri-County/Wash-tenaw County area,
- be 60 years of age or older,
- provide proof of income, and
- have a valid Social Security card and photo ID.

Registrations will be accepted at the Center on Saturday, September 23, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Please note that proof of income and ID must be provided at the time of registration.

### Hot Lunch

For just \$1.50, Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) can enjoy a hot lunch at the Center any weekday at 11:30 a.m. Call at least 24 hours in advance.

### Crime Watch

Crime Prevention Officer Joe Richardson of the Romulus Police Department will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 26, for the Center's monthly Crime Watch program. New faces are always welcome.

### Haircuts

The next date for the Romulus Senior Center's haircut service is Monday, November 20, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable (\$5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: All haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

### Center Offers Transportation Service

Round-trip transportation service within the Romulus city limits is available to local seniors each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a fee of just \$1. To make your reservation (no later than 2 p.m. on the day before the trip), please call 734-942-6852 during the Center's normal business hours.

### TeleCare Program Available

The Romulus Senior Center's TeleCare program provides seniors with daily phone reassurance at no cost. To learn more, call the Center and ask to speak to Barb or Noel. They'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

### Outside Chore Service

Area young people doing community-service work are available to perform outside chores for senior citizens each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To make arrangements to receive this service, call the Center.

### Senior Support Group Seeks New Members

"Death, divorce, failed expectations, severe injury, major illness, loneliness, depression . . . these are experiences that hurt and bring pain," says Linda Norman, the Senior Center's Program Coordinator. "They are a part of being human; no one is immune."

That's why anyone who is facing a difficult time, needs help, or would just like to talk is urged to join one of the Center's brand-new Senior Support Groups, which held their first meetings this week. Group I will meet each Monday from 4 to 5 p.m.; Group II each Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m. Note: Dates and times are subject to change.

There is no charge to participate in the group.

Call 734-942-6852 for more info. □

## 123 Senior-citizen Volunteers Honored at Special Luncheon

On September 29, the DoubleTree Hotel of Romulus sponsored a wonderful luncheon to honor 123 volunteers who have given their precious time and used their unique skills to benefit local senior citizens. Among the dignitaries who attended the event were David Cox, Assistant to Mayor William Oakley; Richard Marsh, Director of Community Development for the City of Romulus; Linda Norman, the City's Senior Citizens Program Coordinator; State Representative Ray Basham; 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks-Green, and Reverend William Kren of Community United Methodist Church.

Honorees who received special recognition at the luncheon included Sandy Bell, Jackie Pregler, and Viola Willoughby, who were given the annual Angel Award for exceptional volunteer service to other seniors, and Linda Norman, who was recognized by Mayor Oakley for her dedication and excellent service to the senior citizens of Romulus. □



Mayor William Oakley recognized Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, for her dedication and excellent service to local seniors.



(From left) Sandy Bell, Jackie Pregler, and Viola Willoughby received the Romulus Senior Center's annual Angel Award for exceptional volunteer service to other seniors.

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# Congratulations!

## Local Teen Represents Michigan

Miss Michigan Talented Teen 2000, Dana Noble, spent a fun-filled week in New York City during the 30th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition. The 15-year-old junior – actively involved in French, drama, band, dance, track, and cheerleading – made it out to the Big Apple by performing a modern dance routine choreographed by Debbie Wilson, her dance instructor at Romulus High School.

"The experience was absolutely breathtaking," said Noble. "Every moment of the week was exciting, but the best part was meeting all of the contestants from all over the world. I really had fun getting to know them!"

"We spent a lot of time in rehearsals preparing for competition night," she continued. "We also found time to tour the Empire State Building, make a special guest appearance on WBLS 107.5 FM in New York, enjoy a fashion show and luncheon at 'Juston's' – owned by Sean 'Puffy' Combs – and see *Saturday Night Live* on Broadway! The most exciting part was Amateur Night at the Apollo Theatre, where each contestant rubbed the famous log, and we even got to walk across the historic stage! The whole evening was so much fun, I just couldn't sit still during the show!"

"The Talented Teen experience was one I truly will never forget. I had the time of my life."

On competition night in New York, Noble was awarded the WBLS trophy for Miss Personality – which wasn't surprising, since she also won the award for Miss Congeniality at the Michigan finals.

During her reign, she has made a guest appearance on Detroit's *Access Presents* cable program and performed in the First Annual Motorcity Youth Festival. Upcoming guest appearances in-



Dana Noble

clude the Detroit Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta's annual talent show (November 4) and Detroit's 43rd Annual Ebony Fashion Fair (November 12), where she will act as a celebrity hostess. □

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### REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, September 25, 2000, was called to order by President Michael Woods at 6:30 P.M.

Roll call showed all members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Woods.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

9/00/12 Moved by Berlinn supported by Lambert to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

9/00/13 Moved by McCraight supported by Webb to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of September 11, 2000. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

##### Personnel Actions

Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Sally Berger, Social Worker, Cory Elementary, Effective September 26, 2000; Suzanne Frederick, Cafeteria 1, Server, High School, Effective September 15, 2000; Sue Hohman, Cafeteria 1, French Fryer and General Utility Person, High School, Effective September 15, 2000; Carol White, Cafeteria 1, French Fryer and General Utility Person, Middle School, Effective September 15, 2000.

9/00/14 Moved by Lambert supported by Berlinn to accept the employment of personnel as presented by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS: Linda Fugate, Social Worker, Community High School, Effective September 14, 2000; Gwen Hatcher, Bus Driver, Effective September 22, 2000; Elana Vrettas, Social Worker, Cory Elementary School, Effective August 28, 2000.

9/00/15 Moved by Dick supported by Lambert to accept the resignations of personnel as presented by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### Bills for Payment

9/00/16 Moved by Lambert supported by Berlinn to approve the Bills for Payment as submitted by Mr. William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### Presentation – "FISH" Video

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, advised the Board of Education in regards to the "FISH" program (being presented to staff throughout the district) which advocates the philosophy of "Choose Your Attitude," "Play – Have A Little Fun," "Make Someone's Day," and "Be Present." The Board of Education viewed the "FISH" video.

##### Climate Presentation – Jeffery Royal

Mrs. Jeffery Royal, Mr. Doug Hoffman, Mr. Don Foley, and Mrs. Christine Powers presented the Board of Education with an overview of the Climate Committee's end-of-year report and goals for 2000/2001.

##### Anti-Voucher Resolution

9/00/17 Moved by Berlinn supported by McCraight that the Board of Education adopt the resolution as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, in opposition to Proposal #1 on the November 7 ballot. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications or expressions from the public.

##### Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, provided the Board of Education with communications from: (1) Alton Ainslie, Kingscott Associates, Inc., re: Halecreek addition; (2) Middle School newsletter; and (3) school enrollment report.

##### Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Debbie Dick addressed concern over the score board at the athletic field. Mr. Billy McCraight asked for a speedup of the completion of the athletic field. Mrs. Eva Webb complimented the great new sign at the High School. All were reminded of the Crop Walk on Sunday, October 1, 2000.

9/00/18 Moved by McCraight supported by Lambert to amend the agenda and exclude Executive Session – Negotiations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### ADJOURNMENT:

9/00/19 Moved by McCraight supported by Lambert that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eva W. Webb, Secretary  
Romulus Board of Education



**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM**

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Paternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

# Obituaries

**Kevin A. Gilstorff**

Kevin A. Gilstorff of Romulus, Michigan, died Sunday, October 8, 2000. He was 34 years old.

Born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, on May 13, 1966, Kevin was the President of Brigill Trucking Co., Inc., as well as of the Aggregate Carriers of Michigan. He was also a member of the Antique Auto Club of America.

Among those surviving Kevin are his daughter, Kayla M. Gilstorff; his parents, Robert and Myrtle Gilstorff (Onsted, MI); a grandmother, Harriett E.

Gilstorff (Westland, MI); two brothers, Karl R. Gilstorff (Romulus, MI) and Kurt K. (Cathy) Gilstorff (Belleville, MI); and one sister, Mrs. Mike (Karen) Parson (Dearborn Heights, MI). His wife, Dawn M. (Wright) Gilstorff, predeceased him on June 6, 1999.

A funeral service was held Thursday, October 12, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with the Reverend Kelly Smith (St. Mark Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial (Flat Rock, MI).

**Thelma J. Taylor**

Thelma J. Taylor of Beaverton, Michigan, died Sunday, October 8, 2000, at the age of 70.

The daughter of George and Forrest (Lawry) McDonald, Thelma was born in Canton, Ohio, on March 31, 1930. She and husband Billy Taylor were married November 11, 1959.

Surviving her are her husband; three daughters, Joan Bigelow (Beaverton, MI), Karen Martin (Romulus, MI), and Peggy Peters (Clare, MI); one son, Billy

Taylor, Jr. (Beaverton, MI); two sisters, Nellie and Wilma (both of Ohio); seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Among those who predeceased her are her parents, two brothers, and a sister.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, October 10, at Hall Funeral Home (Beaverton, MI), with Pastor John Coffman (Gladwin Church of the Nazarene, Gladwin, MI) officiating. Interment was at Highland Cemetery (Gladwin, MI). □

**ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM**

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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P.O. Box 74038  
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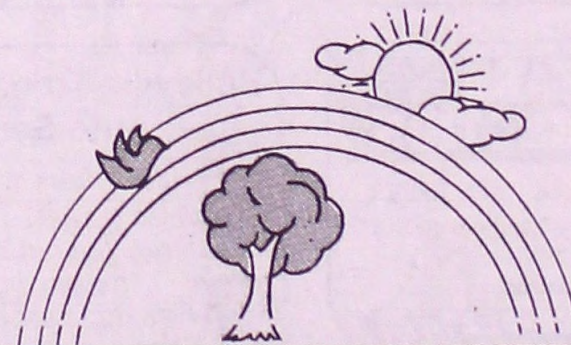
Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
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Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_  
Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):  
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Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

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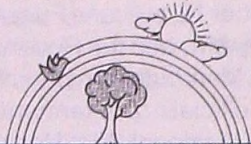
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